



Stray Thoughts

Spring 2023 News, Events & Adoption Information www.WSHS-DG.org

Meet Grayson & Ethan, Two Cats in Need of a Loving Home

Grayson and Ethan had a rough start in life; one of our volunteers found these young kittens living outside on their own. They were malnourished and unsocialized with humans. Grayson was wobbly and uncoordinated, and after a visit to the vet, we found out that Grayson was also deaf. The vet felt his wobbliness would disappear with good nutrition and general good care.

The volunteer was keeping the kittens in her home and continued to foster them. Once the kittens had gained weight, the volunteer brought them to the adoption center to make them available for adoption. After Grayson had been here for a few days, we noticed that he was still wobbly and would swing his head from side to side when he walked. We scheduled another vet visit and, this time, the vet did bloodwork to rule out a fungal infection. As a preventative, he started Grayson on a four-week course of antibiotics.

Grayson's bloodwork was normal, so after the antibiotics were finished, both kittens were microchipped, and we scheduled their neuter surgeries. Ethan's surgery went well, but Grayson had a seizure after waking up from the anesthesia. The vet hoped this was a one-time occurrence and told us to monitor Grayson back at the adoption center.

All went well for a few weeks, but then Grayson had another seizure. The vet felt our next step should be contacting a neurologist, so we made an appointment for Grayson at VCA Aurora. The neurologist examined him and scheduled him for an MRI. He believes that



Grayson has a deep inner ear infection, and the MRI will help them determine the best course of treatment. The vet also prescribed another antibiotic and prednisolone.

As you can imagine, visiting a specialty vet and having an MRI is expensive, but we never turn our back on an animal in need at West Suburban Humane Society. We provide rescue care beyond compare for all animals that come through our door. However, we could only do this for our animals with the help of our generous supporters.

Inside

Page 2:

- WSHS Wish List
- Board Members
- WSHS Staff

Page 3:

- Ready for a Home

Page 4:

- Emails and Letters

Page 5:

- Volunteer Spotlight

Page 6:

- Hearty Thanks

Page 7:

- Corporate Sponsors

Page 8:

- Petals for Pets

Meet Grayson & Ethan, Continued

While all this happening with Grayson, you may be asking what about Ethan. Ethan also had his own unexpected issues. He developed a skin infection and lost all his hair on his neck and chin. After two vet visits and four weeks of skin ointment, Ethan has healed, and his fur is growing back.

Once we have a diagnosis and Grayson is treated, he and Ethan will be available for adoption. They are considered a bonded pair which means they need to be adopted together. Grayson relies on Ethan to be his ears, and Ethan depends on Grayson to give him courage. Despite all they have been through, these



Ethan



Grayson

boys are sweet and loving and have much to offer to a new family. Please consider donating to make their dream of finding a home a reality.

WSHS Wish List

- Paper Towels
 - Anti-bacterial hand soap
 - Dog Leashes (no retractable leashes)
 - 6 foot and 30 foot
 - Food!
 - Any **canned** cat, dog, kitten, and puppy food
 - For dry food, we use only Purina One dog and puppy formula and Purina One cat and kitten formula
 - Kitten milk replacement
 - Pet safe ice melt/salt
 - Dog and cat toys (we especially like Kong and Nylabone brands!)
 - Cat litter – unscented, clumping and/or clay
 - Postage stamps
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Six inch paper plates
 - Disinfecting wipes
 - Ziplock bags – gallon and quart sizes
 - Laundry detergent
- Monetary donations are always appreciated!**

West Suburban Humane Society

Board Members:

Scott McMillin, President

Mark Motuelle

Vice President

Sarah Marshall,

Recording Secretary

Kerry Kopera,

Controller/Treasurer

Christian Ambler, Director

Colleen Attwell, Director

Dr. Lyn Edmonson, Director

Bob Koch, Director

Marci Levites, Director

Brian Wasielewski, Director

David Welch, Director

WSHS Staff:

Executive Director: Carolyn Mossberger

Director of Development: Heather Kash

Adoption Counselors: Carol Thygesen, Eric Van Clevan, Roberta Diehl, Nanette Delaney, Cassidy Santen

Animal Care Team: Brittany Askeland, Jennifer Nathan Miller

Intake/Foster Coordinator: Lexi Vitale

Adoption Desk Manager: Catherine VanGemmeren

Volunteer Coordinator: Heidi Janss

Events Coordinator: Chas Kennedy

Humane Education Manager: Deanne Tomanovich

Stray Thoughts is an official publication of the West Suburban Humane Society, a not-for-profit, volunteer-based animal shelter. No city, state, or federal funds support WSHS. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Please call 630-960-9601 to submit articles or receive donation information.

Our adoption center is open for visitors but adoptions are being handled by appointment only. Check our website wshs-dg.org for up-to-date information.

Adoption Center:

1901 W. Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515

E-mail Address: Director@WSHS-DG.org

Phone: (630) 960-9600 • Fax: (630) 960-9604

Ready for a Home

Artemis Female | 1 year old | Husky Mix

SPECIAL NEED: ADULT ONLY HOME

Hi, I'm Artemis! I'm a very special husky mix looking for a forever home. I had a rough start in life, and I'm still very afraid of new things and people. I've done some intensive training at Bark Avenue to help me build some confidence. It still takes me a long time to warm up and trust someone, but once I do, I'm a total sweetheart! My new home should have people who will reinforce the training I've received so that I can keep progressing and move beyond my difficult past. I love to play with other dogs, but my insecurities mean that I can't live comfortably with another dog unless my new owner is very experienced with dog handling. Kids scare me, so I should live in an adult only home. If you think you are the right person to help me become the best I can be, apply to meet me today!



Bolt Male | 1.5 years old | Coonhound Mix

SPECIAL NEED: MUST LIVE WITH ANOTHER DOG

Hi I'm Bolt, and I'm enthusiastic about life! I've got the sweetest face and personality to match. Besides being so good looking, I'm housetrained, and I get along with other dogs, cats, and kids of all ages. This lanky boy is ready to fit into an active household. I've got lots of energy, so let's play in the fenced backyard, or go for long walks. We can go where my nose takes us! I need to live with another dog because I love to play so much. If you've been looking for a fun new friend, you've found him!



Shunbunkin Female | 6 years old | Calico

SPECIAL NEED: MUST BE THE ONLY PET

Hi, I'm Shunbunkin! I'm large-and-in-charge lady who has Torbie attitude. I'm beautiful and I know it. There's lots of me to love so I hope you like a big kitty. I like all the typical cat things – sunbeams to roll around in, comfy beds, wand toys, and treats. Just because I've got a little sass doesn't mean I don't like to cuddle; I'm just going to make you earn my love. On the flip side of that I don't enjoy sharing my affection with other 4-legged friends. This means I must be the only pet in the home so all attention and affection can rain upon me! If you've been looking for a spunky gal, you've found her!



Chester Male | 1.5 years old | Brown Tabby with White

SPECIAL NEED: NO DOGS

Hi, I'm Chester, and I'm here to make friends! I've come a long way from the barn I was born in, and now I'm loving life inside with all the people! I'm a totally tame boy now, but I still have a little bit of a wild side so I hope you like a boy with a lot of personality. I'm playful with other cats and I love a good feather on a string. Another thing I love is kids – there's something about them that I'm drawn towards. You could call me a good boy, but really I'm a great boy who is patiently waiting for someone to scoop me up. If you're the lucky person, your home shouldn't have dogs- that's my only requirement. If you've been looking for a fun new friend, you've found him!



Emails from Adopters

Hello,
We adopted Snowflake and Mistletoe (now Gabby and Sophie) back in December and they are doing great! They are cute, cuddly and sociable with us and our friends and are endless entertainment, always exploring new things! We are so happy with them and they seem to like us too! They are 1 year old today. Just thought you would like to see a couple of pictures in their new home.



Hello, WSHS
Kevin is now Duke and he had a great first night! He was nervous at first but settled in with a lot of comforting. VCA said they were conspiring to steal him because of what a good boy he is. He loves the kids and gives many kisses, especially when our one year old cries. Our kitty, Leo, is a little scared, but Duke was gentle and excited to meet him! Thank you everybody for our new fur baby!



Hi,
We are enjoying Katsu and she is having fun running around and playing with Jiji! They have different personalities, and Katsu is our cuddler! She loves to jump on my lap for pets and then fall asleep. She is also an adventurer, climbing to investigate everything! Thank you so much. Katsu is such a wonderful addition to our family!



Hi there,
We feel like Mateo has been part of our family forever. He is so affectionate, playful, well behaved, and a lover to all. We have had no major issues and he adjusted quickly! We have enjoyed seeing his true personality show as he has been with us longer and longer. Thank you so much for connecting us to Mateo. We're so grateful!



Golf Outing

Join us for an afternoon on the links to benefit the our cats and dogs!

Prairie Landing Golf Club
2325 Longest Dr, West Chicago

July 24, 2023
Noon Shotgun Start

West Suburban Humane Society

Sponsored by:

Bill Jacobs **Busey BANK** **SPECIALTY CONSTRUCTION** **RMB**

Questions? Contact Events@WSHS-DG.org
or visit <https://WSHSGolf2023.givesmart.com> to register or learn more

Caddy
1 Year-Old Hound Mix

Mulligan
2 Year-Old Domestic Short Hair

Volunteer Spotlight

On Wednesday mornings, the cattery shift gathers in the prep room, not only to prepare to clean but also to catch up with each other. Most of these women have been volunteering with WSHS for a long time and have become more than coworkers, they are friends.

Diane Cryer, Pat Johnson, and Kathy Casiello have logged more than 50 years of volunteering with WSHS! Diane started in the kennel on Wednesday mornings with her husband Ed more than 20 years ago. In 2017, Diane joined Pat in the cattery where Pat has been volunteering since 2006. Kathy also volunteered with Diane in the kennel for 10 years. After the pandemic, Kathy missed her fellow volunteers and the animals, so she joined Pat and Diane to work with the cats. Heidi Janss started out volunteering from her home 10 years ago as the foster care coordinator for dogs. She wanted to be more hands-on at the shelter, so she joined the house cats' team in 2017. Christine Parmley and Maureen Sullivan are the newcomers; both started in the new adoption center.

These cattery volunteers agree that the people as well as the cats bring them in week after week. Pat believes that her WSHS volunteer work is her "therapy and puts her in a new state of mind." Christine enjoys the family atmosphere at WSHS and finds that same feeling whenever she subs on other shifts.

It's no surprise that these volunteers have a lot in common. Everyone is retired except for Heidi, who is the WSHS volunteer coordinator. Most of these women worked in education or children's programming or in the healthcare field. They also enjoy traveling; that's one of things they catch up on each week. Maureen's travel is limited since she is the primary caregiver for her 96-year-old mother, but everyone else is on the go. Christine is often traveling to the west coast to visit family, Pat is scheduled for a Mediterranean cruise and a trip to Tunisia this year, Kathy enjoys traveling out west and to Canada, and Diane and her husband have traveled the country with their dogs in their travel trailer.



Pat and Diane have been volunteering at Barkapalooza every year for as long as they can remember, and Kathy always brings baked goods for the event. Heidi and Christine also support WSHS by fostering. Heidi and her husband Pete have fostered dogs and cats and really enjoy hosting litters of puppies. Christine has fostered WSHS cats that require a quiet home to come out of their shell. Maureen has done years of work with feral cats, leading her to WSHS once she moved to Downers Grove. Maureen also volunteers on Monday mornings where she likes "to set the tone for the new kitties, letting them know they are safe, they will be cared for, and they will get a new home and a better life."

With so much volunteer experience, these ladies easily move around on their shift to make sure the cats get the most of their time. They work hard but have a lot of fun too. Pat told us about the time when she was cleaning a small, caged area off the old cattery. As she was picking up the toys from the floor, imagine her surprise and horror when she realized one of those toys was a dead mouse! Diane remembers when they "lost" a dachshund on their kennel shift. The volunteers looked everywhere and could not find him. When they had almost given up, his blankets moved!

Hearty Thanks

Avani from Downers Grove had a birthday and asked for donations for the adoption center instead of gifts for her. She donated food, toys and supplies.



Avani

Two National Honor Society students, Lia O'Malley and Michelle Naom, organized a fundraiser in December. They baked and sold cookies to WHS students. They donated the proceeds of \$625 to the adoption center.



John Schroder Early Childhood Center

The 5th grade students at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School raised and donated \$438 for the animals at the adoption center.

The students at Maercker Intermediate School in Westmont held a fundraiser and donated the proceeds of \$336 to the adoption center.

The staff and families at the John Schroder Early Childhood Center collected blankets, food, treats, leashes, toys, towels, disinfecting wipes, soap and much more for the animals at the adoption center.

The students at Fairmont Elementary School collected and donated food, toys and supplies.

The student council at Whittier School in Downers Grove held a donation drive. They donated tons of food, toys and supplies.



Whittier School



Fairmont Elementary School

A BIG THANKS Our Corporate Sponsors!



All Creatures Great and Small

Artistic Dog & Cat Grooming

Beata and Sara Kolpek

Platinum Partners Realtors

Dogtopia – Downers Grove
and LaGrange Locations

Enjoy Your Dog

Happy Dog Barkery

Itasca Bank & Trust

Midwest Waste Consultants

Peace, Love & Happy Pets

Robert Bair – Plumbing,
Heating and Air

Shaw Media/Suburban Life Media

Suburban K9

Two Bostons



*plant sale fundraiser
benefitting the cats and dogs of*

West Suburban
Humane Society

petals for pets

MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND

635 ROGERS STREET
DOWNERS GROVE, IL

FRIDAY, MAY 12TH

NOON - 7PM

SATURDAY, MAY 13TH

9AM - 3PM



Proudly Sponsored By

GERALD

SUBARU
OF NAPERVILLE